

# Marriages & Marriage Dissolutions

## Marriages

In 2003, 18,722 marriages occurred in Kansas, a decrease of 5.4 percent from the 2002 total of 19,783 marriages. ([Table 57](#))

The greatest number of marriages (3,526) occurred in Sedgwick county, but Geary county had the highest marriage rate of 18.5 marriages per 1,000 population. Greeley county had the fewest marriages (7) while Kearny had the lowest marriage rate (3.3). ([Table 57](#), [Figure 36](#))

The Kansas marriage rate in 2003 was 6.9 marriages per 1,000 population, which was 17.9 percent lower than the 1994 rate of 8.4. The 2003 rate was 8.0 percent lower than the estimated U.S. rate of 7.5 marriages per 1,000 population. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 38](#))

More wedding ceremonies were performed in June (12.6 percent) than any other month in 2003, with May and August being the second and third most popular months. ([Figure 40](#))

First-time marriages for both partners made up more than half of the marriages in Kansas for the fourth consecutive year. In 2003, 53.9 percent of all marriages involved first-time partners. ([Table 59](#), [Figure 2](#))

Kansas couples are delaying marriage. In 1994, 11.9 percent of the brides and 4.7 percent of the grooms were under 20 years of age. However, in 2003, 9.1 percent of the brides and 3.2 percent of the grooms were under 20. ([Table 60](#))

The average age of all brides in 2003 was 29.8 years and that of grooms was 32.0 years. Women marrying for the first time averaged 24.7 years while first time grooms averaged 26.8 years. Of those persons who remarried during 2003, women were, on the average, 39.5 years old and men were 42.6 years of age. ([Figure 41](#))

## Marriage and Marriage Dissolutions (Cont.)

### Marriage Dissolutions

**Notice:** The tabulation of divorce statistics is impacted by the completeness of reporting by District Courts in Kansas. Despite efforts to assure 100 percent reporting compliance for divorce certificates, it has been determined by the Center for Health and Environmental Statistics that not all divorce certificates have been filed with the Center. The Center is unable to estimate how incomplete the reporting is. Users of divorce data should exercise caution before making any conclusions based on these data. The Center is obligated to report the data it collects, but recommends that any divorce data findings be accompanied by a statement that totals may not represent 100 percent of this vital event due to under-reporting.

In 2003, 8,644 marriage dissolutions (8,385 divorces and 259 annulments) occurred in Kansas, a decrease of 10.4 percent from the 2002 total of 9,645. ([Table 58](#) and [Table 62](#))

The greatest number of marriage dissolutions (2,534) occurred in Sedgwick county, but Coffey county had the highest marriage dissolution rate (11.9) per 1,000 population. Comanche, Meade and Wallace counties had 2 marriage dissolutions in 2003. The lowest rate was in Meade County with a marriage dissolution rate of 0.4 per 1,000 population. ([Table 58](#), [Figure 37](#))

The Kansas marriage dissolution rate in 2003 was 3.2 marriage dissolutions per 1,000 population, which was 30.4 percent lower than the 1994 rate of 4.6. The 2003 rate is the lowest since 1969. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 39](#))

Kansas has generally reported a higher marriage dissolution rate than the U.S. for most years since 1951. However, Kansas' rate in 1995 (4.3) was lower than the U.S. rate (4.4) for the first time since 1951. The Kansas rate in 2003 (3.2) was 15.8 percent lower than the U.S. rate (3.8). ([Figure 39](#))

The ratios of marriages to divorces for Kansas and the U.S. were both roughly 2 to 1, with Kansas at 2.2:1 and the U.S. at 2.0:1. ([Table 57](#) and [Table 58](#))

The most common age-group of wives involved in marriage dissolutions in 2003 was 25-29, while for husbands it was the 30-34 age-group. For couples of the same age-group, the most common age-group was 25-29. ([Table 61](#))

The average age at marriage dissolution in 2003 was 36.4 years for wives and 38.7 years for husbands, as compared to 34.1 years for wives and 36.4 years for husbands in 1994. ([Figure 42](#))

In 2003, 41.3 percent of marriages ending in divorce or annulment lasted four years or less. ([Table 62](#))

There were 8,044 minor children affected as a result of marriage dissolutions in 2003. At least one minor child was reported in over half (51.3 percent) of the marriage dissolutions. ([Table 63](#), [Figure 43](#))